

RESOLUTION 2015 - 01

**A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF
SAN JUAN COUNTY, COLORADO, AND THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE
TOWN OF SILVERTON, COLORADO APPROVING AN IMMEDIATE EFFORT TO
WORK WITH OUR DOWNSTREAM PARTNERS AND GAIN SUPPORT FOR A
PETITION TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND SENATE OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA REGARDING FUNDING FOR THE UPPER ANIMAS
RIVER BASIN NECESSARY TO TAKE IMMEDIATE ACTIONS TO MITIGATE THE
ENVIRONMENTAL AND ECONOMIC IMPACTS CREATED BY THE LONG-TERM
EFFECTS OF HISTORIC MINING ACTIVITIES AND OF THE CATASTROPHIC
GOLD KING INCIDENT**

WHEREAS, on the Fifth Day of August 2015 three million gallons of acid mine drainage was accidentally released into Cement Creek; and

WHEREAS, those three million gallons of acid mine drainage caused environmental and economic impacts on the States of Colorado, New Mexico and Utah as it flowed into the Animas River, the San Juan River and the Colorado River; and

WHEREAS, those three million gallons of acid mine drainage that contaminated the Animas, San Juan and Colorado Rivers caused environmental and economic impacts upon the Southern Ute, Ute Mountain and Navajo Nations; and

WHEREAS, those three million gallons of acid mine drainage caused environmental and economic impacts on the Municipalities and Counties that depend upon the Animas, San Juan and Colorado Rivers for domestic, agricultural and recreational uses; and

WHEREAS, the environmental and economic impacts on all affected entities are both immediate and long term; and

WHEREAS, acid mine drainage from the Gold King and other historic mine sites continue to leak into the Upper Animas River Basin creating an adverse impact upon aquatic life; and

WHEREAS, historic mining has occurred in the Upper Animas River Basin since the 1870's long before there were environmental regulations; and

WHEREAS, there are no active mining operations in the Upper Animas River Basin to be held responsible for the degradation of the Animas River; and

WHEREAS, for more than twenty years a collaborative effort of numerous Federal, State and Local agencies have worked to improve the quality of the Animas River but have not had the

necessary financial resources to address every mine site with an environmental issue; and

WHEREAS, there have been two previous mining related catastrophic events that have created environmental and economic impacts to the communities along the Animas, San Juan and Colorado Rivers; and

WHEREAS, the people of the Town of Silverton and San Juan County understand that this problem is in our district and we feel we bear a greater responsibility to our downstream neighbors to help find a solution to the issue of leaking mines; and

WHEREAS, San Juan County and the Town of Silverton wish to work collaboratively with the Federal, State and Local agencies and the downstream communities affected by the Gold King Incident to insure that there will not be another mining related catastrophic event, to provide necessary water treatment, and to continue to remediate mining properties that adversely impact the Animas River.


NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners of San Juan County, Colorado, and the Board of Trustees of the Town of Silverton approve this resolution directing our elected leaders and staff to work with downstream communities to garner support for a request for Congressional legislation to provide immediate emergency disaster funding. We further direct our elected leaders and staff to work with downstream communities to determine the amount of funding and what it would be used for. We further offer the following list of possible funding priorities as a starting point for discussion with our downstream partners:

1. Construction of a water treatment facility for the acid mine drainage located in upper Cement Creek.
2. Establishment of a fund to operate the water treatment facility.
3. Adequate funding to complete mining related remediation projects within the Upper San Juan Basin.
4. Adequate funding to identify and address any mine portal with the potential to cause a catastrophic blowout.
5. Adequate funding for scientific research necessary to improve the technology for water treatment and mining remediation.
6. Provide funding for the immediate and long-term economic and environmental recovery for all downstream Municipalities and Counties adversely impacted by the catastrophic Gold King Incident.
7. Provide funding for the immediate and long-term economic and environmental recovery

for the Southern Ute, Ute Mountain Ute, and Navajo Nations adversely impacted by the catastrophic Gold King Incident.

8. Provide funding for immediate and long-term economic recovery for the Town of Silverton and San Juan County.

READ, PASSED AND ADOPTED by the 24th day of August 2015 by the Board of Trustees of the Town of Silverton, Colorado.


Christine M. Tookey, Mayor


Pete Maisel


Karla Safranski

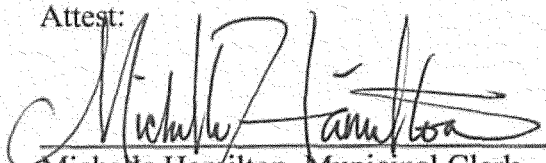

David Zanoni


Malcolm MacDougal



Larry Gallegos

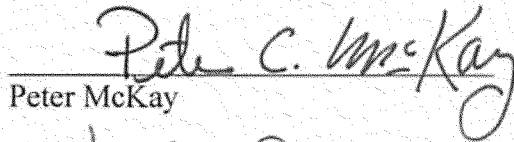

Tiffany deKay

Attest:


Michelle Hamilton, Municipal Clerk

READ, PASSED AND ADOPTED by the 25th day of August, 2015 by the
Board of County Commissioners of San Juan County, Colorado.


Ernest Kuhlman, Chairman


Peter McKay


Scott Fetchenhier

Attest:


Ladonna Jaramillo, Clerk & Recorder